

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 JUSE-00 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

TRSE-00 FRB-03 PC-01 /121 W

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R P 231400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 125

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9903

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

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REF : NEW DELHI 9777

SUMMARY: A TENSE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED IN THE JULY 23 SESSION OF PARLIAMENT AS CONGRESS MINISTERS DEFENDED THE EMERGENCY AND OPPOSITION MP'S BITTERLY ATTACKED IT. THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY WAS APPROVED BY THE LOK SABHA BY 336 TO 59 WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS. (THE RAJYA SABHA HAD APPROVED THE DECLARATION ON JULY 22.) AFTER THE VOTE IN THE LOWER HOUSE THE NON-CPI/OPPOSITION MEMBERSHIP STAGED A WALK-OUT, WHICH WILL LAST FOR THE REST OF THE SESSION. FOLLOWING THEIR DEPARTURE, THE LOK SABHA THEN PASSED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL MAKING THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY NON-JUSTICIABLE. DURING THE DEBATE IN THE RAJYA SABHA, THE CPI LEADER, BHUPESH GUPTA, CRITICIZED THE GOI FOR SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF THE CIA IN THE CURRENT SITUATION AND CITED THE NAMES OF SIX EMBASSY AND TWO CONGEN OFFICERS, ALLEGING THAT THEY WERE WORKING TO UNDERMINE THE GOI. HIS REMARKS WERE NOT PASSED BY THE CENSOR FOR PUBLICATION. OPPOSITION ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE OF NO REAL CONSEQUENCE. THE BIHAR STATE GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE SERVICES OF SIX ACTIVE-DUTY ARMY OFFICERS TO MANAGE POWER PLANTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO FREQUENT BREAKDOWNS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED THAT CIVIL AUTHORITIES HAVE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE MILITARY. CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT BAROOAH ISSUED A DIRECTIVE REQUIRING SENIOR CONGRESSMEN TO DECLARE THEIR LAND HOLDINGS. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST LARGE LAND OWNERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO COMPLY WITH THE LETTER OF THE LAND CEILING LAWS WHILE RETAINING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE LANDS. END SUMMARY.

1. A TENSE AURO SURROUNDED TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT. THE CONGRESS BENCHES WERE SAID TO BE ABSOLUTELY SILENT AS CONGRESS MINISTERS INCLUDING JAGJIVAN RAM ROSE TO DEFEND THE EMERGENCY AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS BITTERLY CRITICIZED IT. SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S PROTEGE, INDEPENDENT M.P. S. SHARMIN, SPOKE VERY FORCIBLY AGAINST THE GOI'S MOVE TO SUPPRESS REPORTING CONFIDENTIAL

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ON DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT. LOK SABHA DMK LEADER SEZHIAN WARNED CONGRESS MPS ACROSS THE AISLE THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY SUFFER, AS THE OPPOSITION HAS SUFFERED. THE LOK SABHA APPROVED THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY BY 336 VOTES TO 59 WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS (MRS GANDHI, DEPRIVED OF HER RIGHT TO VOTE BY THE SUPREME COURT RULING, HAS BEEN QUIETLY LEAVING BEFORE FORMAL VOTE COUNT SINCE PARLIAMENT BEGAN) IN A VOTE

WHICH WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE OPPOSITION MP AS THE COUNT-DOWN ON THE DEATH OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY. AFTER THE VOTE, REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (RSP) LEADER T. CHAUDHURY (WHO OPPOSED FAKHRUDDIN AHMED IN LAST FALL'S PRE-SIDENTIAL CONTEST) READ OUT A BRIEF STATEMENT ATTACKING THE EMERGENCY AND THE CENSORSHIP OF SPEECHES BY THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT. THE NON-CPI MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH HOUSES THEN STAGED A WALK-OUT, WHICH WILL LAST FOR THE DURATION OF THE SESSION.

2. FOLLOWING THE OPPOSITION'S EXIT, THE LOK SABHA PASSED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL MAKING THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY NON-JUSTICIABLE. TWELVE STATE LEGISLATURES WILL MEET ON JULY 28 TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR CONGRESS MP CONTACTS, PARLIAMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SIT UNTIL NEXT WEDNESDAY TO DEBATE AND PASS THE RESIDUE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCES AND OTHER BUSINESS THAT HAS PILED UP SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

3. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD TODAY THAT THE CPI LEADER IN THE RAJYA SABHA, BHUPESH GUPTA, CRITICIZED THE GOI FOR SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF THE "CIA AND ITS AGENTS" IN PERPETRATING THE EMERGENCY. IN THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS, HE CITED THE NAMES OF SIX EMBASSY AND TWO CONGEN CALCUTTA OFFICERS WHOM HE ALLEGED WERE WORKING WITH THE RSS TO UNDERMINE THE GOI BEFORE THE EMERGENCY. GUPTA'S REMARKS WERE NOT PASSED BY THE CENSOR FOR PUBLICATION.

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TRSE-00 FRB-03 PC-01 /121 W

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P R 231400Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 126
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9903

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

4. IN SUPPORT OF THE EMERGENCY, THE HOME MINISTRY HAS
ISSUED A WHITE PAPER. THE DOCUMENT, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,
STATES THAT "THE REVIEW DOES NOT PURPORT TO DISCLOSE
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ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT AS
IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE IN PUBLIC INTEREST TO PUBLISH IT
AT PRESENT."

5. CONGEN CALCUTTA REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION IN WEST
BENGAL, AND AS FAR AS IT KNOWS IN RISSA, BIHAR AND THE
NORTHEAST, REMAINS COMPLETELY QUIET. BARELY PERCEPTIBLE
STIRRING COMES FROM THE WEST BENGAL CONGRESS (O) WHICH
CONTINUES TO PUBLISH A CRUDELY MIMEOGRAPHED ONE-PAGE UNDER-
GROUND NEWSLETTER. THE PARTY HAS ISSUED A LEAFLET
ANNOUNCING THAT ITS 72-YEAR-OLD LEADER, PRAFULLA SEN,
WILL UNDERTAKE A PROTEST MARCH TO CALCUTTA ON AUGUST 8,
ACCOMPANIED BY 10 OLD-TIME GANDHIAN VETERANS. IF IT GETS
STARTED AT ALL, WE BELIEVE THE MARCH WILL BE BROKEN UP
RIGHT AWAY BY THE POLICE, AS WEAS THE CONGRESS (O)'S
MINISCULE JUNE 26 RALLY IN CALCUTTA.

6. TO MARK THE ONE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGENCY,
THE NON-CPI OPPOSITION IS PLANNING A DEMONSTRATION IN

BOMBAY ON JULY 26. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT THE GUJARAT JANATA FRONT IS ALSO PLANNING A DEMONSTRATION FOR THAT DAY. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT OLIPHANT'S "CANDIED APPLE" CARTOON IN THE JULY 14 "NEWSWEEK" WILL BE ENLARGED AND POSTED WIDELY FOR THE BOMBAY DEMONSTRATION. IN BOMBAY AND DELHI WESTERN ARTICLES CRITICAL OF THE EMERGENCY ARE BEING REPRODUCED AND CIRCULATED WIDELY. (COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS AN INCREASING UNDERCURRENT OF DISSATISFACTION WITH MRS GANDHI'S ACTION MANIFEST IN BOMBAY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT REPRESENTS ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPEDIMENT TO HER, AT LEAST NOT IN THE SHORT TERM.)

7. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM A JULY 11 PRESS REPORT THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR HAS REQUESTED THE SERVICES OF SIX ACTIVE ARMY ENGINEERS TO RUN THE STATE'S POWER PLANTS AT PATRATU AND BARAUNI. A RETIRED LT. COL IS TO BE MADE THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF. THE CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR HAS ASKED FOR A LIST OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE ELECTRICITY BOARD SUSPECTED OF SABOTAGE AND DISLOYALTY. HE REPORTEDLY EXPLANIED THAT THE DRASTIC STEP OF REQUESTING THE ARMY'S ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN TAKEN IN VIEW OF FREQUENT BREAKDOWNS. (COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRST TIME THAT THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES HAVE CALLED ON THE MILITARY FOR HELP SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED. IN 1974, THE ARMY REJECTED A SIMILAR REQUEST BY THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT.)

8. CONGRESS PRESIDENT BAROOAH HAS ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO ALL CONGRESSMEN HOLDING POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OR PARTY AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS REQUIRING THEM TO DECLARE THEIR LANDHOLDINGS. AUGUST 15 IS SET AS THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE, AND BAROOAH WARNED THAT INACCURATE OR INCOMPLETE DECLARATIONS WOULD GIVE RISE TO "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL."

9. ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER VENGAL RAO HAS PUBLICLY APPEALED TO LEADING CONGRESSMEN IN HIS STATE NOT ONLY TO DECLARE THEIR SURPLUS LAND UNDER THE STATE'S LAND CEILING ACT BUT TO SURRENDER IT WITHIN TWO MONTHS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD HAND OVER HIS SURPLUS LAND, ABOUT 55 ACRES, TO THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CLAIMING ANY COMPENSATION. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT MOST LARGE LAND OWNERS, INCLUDING THE CONGRESSMEN WHO ARE SUBJECT TO BAROOAH'S DIRECTIVE, HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY TAKEN LEGAL STEPS TO COMPLY WITH LAND CEILING LAWS, E.G., BY EFFECTING INTRAFAMILY TRANSFERS, AND THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ORDER TO RENN#

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TICIANS ARE EXTORTING "PROTECTION MONEY". FROM PEOPLE
USING THE PLOY THAT THEY ARE TO BE ARRESTED HAVE NOW BEEN
CONFIRMED IN THE PRESS. A CONSTABLE WAS ARRESTED IN DELHI
ON JULY 21, ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN THIS RACKET.

11. SEVERAL TAMIL LANGUAGE PAPERS ON JULY 22 REPORT THE
HOLDING OF AN "ANTI-FASCISTS CONFERENCE" IN THE CHINGLEPUT
DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU. THE VIE PRESIDENT OF THE TAMIL
NADU CONGRESS COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CPI
PARTICIPATED. ONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WELCOMED
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"THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S TIMELY AND STERN MEASURES AGAINST
REACTIONARY, COMMUNAL, AND EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN INDIA WHICH,
IN COLLUSION WITH U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND CIA AGENTS ATTEMPTED
TO CREATE CONFUSION AND ANARCHY IN INDIA. . ."

12. A CPM MALAYALAM DAILY ON JULY 18, TRYING TO PROVE
THAT "IMPERIALISTS" SUPPORTING MRS GANDHI, RAN A FRONT PAGE
HEADLINE: "MOYNIHAN SUPPORTS PRIME MINISTER GANDHI."

13. A CPI HINDI DAILY PUBLISHED IN NEW DELHI JULY 23 EDIT-
ORIALIZES THAT AMERICAN AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED IN INDIA'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND REFERS TO J.P.'S GANDHI PEACE FOUNDATION
AS HAVING BEEN A RECIPIENT OF MONEY FROM ABROAD. THE EDITORIAL
IMPLIES THAT THE CIA WAS THE LIKELY SOURCE OF THIS FUNDING.
THE JULY 23 CONGRESS (R) TAMIL DAILY ANNAI NADU QUOTED A
HIGH CONGRESS PARTY OFFICIAL IN TAMIL NADU AS ATTACKING THE
UNITED STATES FOR UNDERMINING INDIAN DEMOCRACY.
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NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

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